

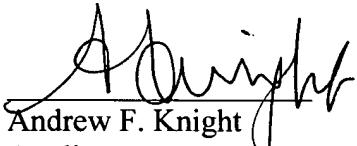
REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were pending in the present application. Claims 4, 9, 17, and 21 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 4 may be found in original claim 5. Support for the amendment to claim 9 may be found, e.g., on page 28, line 22 of the present application. Support for the amendment to claim 17 may be found in original claims 18 and 19. Support for the amendment to claim 21 may be found in original claims 22 and 23. Claims 2, 3, 5, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22-24 have been canceled.

New claims 25-33 have been added. Support for new claims 25, 26, and 28 may be found, e.g., in Figs. 17a and 17b and the related description. Regarding new claim 26, a copy of Figs. 17a and 17b is attached, showing in red a “linear segment ‘A’” along which a piston portion 50 moves and along which upper check valves 218, 220 (but not lower check valves 218, 220) are located. Regarding new claim 28, Applicant respectfully submits that the region between the two piston portions 50 may be “a same pressure vessel” to which the two propellant entrance valves 218 and the two propellant exit valves 220 are connected. Support for new claims 27 and 33 may be found, e.g., in Fig. 8 and the related description. Support for new claims 29-32 may be found in original claims 10, 9, 11, and 13-14, respectively. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests entrance of the present amendments and examination on the merits. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will further prosecution of the present case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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5/19/04
Date